

# THE LANCASTER NEWS

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## CLIMAX IS REACHED IN MEXICAN AFFAIRS

### REBELLION RAMPANT

Herrera's Disaffection is Far-Reach- ing and Serious Consequences, It Is Thought—Flame of Open Revolt Is Spreading Throughout Northern Confiners of Southern Republic— Drastic Steps Will Be Made to Dis- arm All Mexicans Along Border.

El Paso, Texas, March 23. Private advices reaching here to-day confirmed reports that Gen. Luis Herrera had joined the Villa forces at Chihuahua and left little room for doubt that Mexican affairs had reached a point fraught with far-reach- ing and perhaps serious conse- quences to this country.

Not only was it accepted here as definite that Herrera had declared against both Carranza and the United States, but it was asserted with equal confidence that Torreón is in the hands of Villa forces and that all northern Mexico is seething with open rebellion against the de facto government.

### Situation Grave

So grave was the situation regard- ed here that the military authorities to-day planned drastic steps to re- lieve all Mexicans in El Paso of any arms they might have concealed in their homes and enforce what would be practically martial law in "little Chihuahua," the heart of El Paso's Mexican section.

All night El Paso waited for the warning whistles, which would tell of the expected outbreak. Three hundred soldiers with machine gun detachments waited under arms for any emergency and the police re- serves, equipped with rifles, were also held ready.

It is understood that government officials here sent Washington a recommendation couched in the strongest terms, urging that steps be taken to disarm all Mexicans along the border, taking the right of forcible entry and search if necessary. The Washington authorities hereto- fore have opposed such action on the ground that it would be misinter- preted by the Mexicans and discrim- ination against them.

It is now insisted by local authori- ties that the time has passed for any delicacy in handling the situation. It is pointed out that no American is permitted to enter Mexico armed and that there has been a far greater lax- ity on this side of the border than was desirable.

The situation in Juarez remains mostly a subject of conjecture with such information as is obtainable bearing a decidedly sinister aspect. It is known that a bitter feud exists between the mayor, Manuel Prieto, and the military commander, Gen. Ga- briel Gavia. Prieto is a staunch Carranza supporter, while Gavia is de- voted to the interests of Gen. Obre- gon. Carranza's minister of war, who is known to be bitterly hostile to the first chief's program, especially as it relates to co-operation with Ameri- cans. Gavia's troops are Obregon- ists and former Villistas.

### Think El Paso Safe

Whatever may happen in Juarez, there is no suspicion here that any attack would be made on El Paso from the other side of the river, but there is the greatest apprehension that at an outbreak one side would be followed by an outbreak on the other. There are about 35,000 Mexi- cans in this city out of a total popu- lation of 71,000. The military and civil authorities have made vigorous efforts to forestall trouble by arrest- ing every Mexican who was suspected of inciting fellow countrymen against Americans. That such a system, ap- parently organized, has been carried on for some time has been well known. Numerous arrests have been made, especially among the colony of Villa adherents which is quite large.

The police last night renewed their efforts and detectives were sent into every section of the city. They ar- rested nearly a score of Mexicans suspected of being engaged in anti- American plotting.

The most important arrest was that of Melchor Herrera, brother of Gen. Luis Herrera. Herrera was ar- rested as he crossed the internation-

## FIRE SWEEPS 36 BLOCKS IN THE CITY OF NASHVILLE

Damage Estimated at \$2,500,000— Death of One Negro Reported.

Nashville, Tenn., March 22.—Fire in the eastern part of Nashville late to-day swept an area of thirty-six blocks, causing damage at \$2,500,000. One death, that of a negro, was reported. Many persons received various injuries, were made home- less. Six hundred houses were de- stroyed.

The section was largely occupied by residences and hundreds of fami- lies were made homeless.

The fire, originating in a small dwelling at 6th and Main streets, was fanned by a gale, and burned a path three blocks wide and a mile long. About 500 houses were de- stroyed, including the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and insti- tution for the aged; the Tulip Street Methodist church and the Edgefield Baptist church.

Governor Rye called out the mil- itia and all semi-military organiza- tions to aid fire sufferers, and the burned districts are being guarded to-night against possible looting.

The Cumberland river separates the burned section from the business section of Nashville.

A small ball of yarn, lighted and thrown by a boy into dry grass in a vacant lot started the fire and a wind driving fifty miles and hour fanned the burning grass into a torrent of flames, which quickly caught a plan- ing mill and leaped from building to building.

It was estimated that at least 3,000 persons are homeless as a re- sult of the fire.

One hundred members of the Na- tional Guard of Tennessee, called out by Governor Rye were on duty in the fire zone and will remain there throughout the night and for several days to aid in relief work and pre- vent possible looting.

al bridge after a conference with Gen. Gavia at Juarez. According to the police, they have proof that a plot had actually been perfected by Herrera and his associates, to start rioting in El Paso. Two hundred men were said to have been enlisted as a nucleus. According to the police, plans of Herrera antici- pated that as soon as the rioting started large numbers of Mexicans would join them.

### Precautions Not Relaxed.

The precautions adopted by the military and civil authorities were not relaxed to-day. They were in part the result of Gen. Funston's orders that special steps should be taken at all points along the border to safeguard lives and property in view of the disaffection of Gen. Luis Herrera and other Carranza chieft- ains in northern Chihuahua.

The belief of Americans who are familiar with Mexican affairs was that if the reported revolts in Chi- hauhua seriously shakes the power of the first chief it would not be long before there would be trouble in Sonora, which is the headquarters of the Obregon adherents and never has been more than lukewarm to the Carranza authority.

It is the native state of Gen. Obregon and its people are said to be devoted to his interests. Gen. Calles, the military governor of Sonora, is known to be an Obregon supporter and his recent attacks upon the Cien- tificos and clericals, combined with his proposal to confiscate all conces- sions granted by Huerta and Villa, have given ominous force to the per- sistent rumors that he is not only anti-American but sympathizes with Villa. It is certain that a number of his most trusted officers were im- plicated with the bandit chief in some of his notorious exploits.

The nervous tension along the bor- der has increased to such an extent that many Americans frankly admit that they would prefer a definite sundering of relations between Wash- ington and the de facto government to a continuance of the existing situ- ation.

## GOVERNOR OFFERS AID TO AUGUSTA

Gov. Manning sent a telegram, as follows, yesterday to the mayor of Augusta.

"South Carolina extends deep sym- pathy and wants to aid you. In what way may we perform a service for your stricken people?"

## CHINA CHANGES AGAIN A REPUBLIC

Monarchy Abandoned by Yuan Shi Kai Who Resumes the Presidency.

### WILL BRING PEACE

Believed That the Abandonment of the Monarchy Will End the Revolu- tion in China.

Peking, March 22.—A State De- partment mandate issued to-night an- nounces the abandonment of the monarchy and resumption of the Re- public.

The mandate says the revolution shows that the demand for a mon- archial form of government is not unanimous and that therefore Yuan Shi Kai rejects the emperorship and resumes the presidency.

The Imperial documents, the man- date adds, will be returned by Yuan Shi Kai to the State Council, which will reconvene as the Senate, prop- erly with the resumption of the Re- public.

Hsu Shih Chang, who left the Cabinet because of the monarchical movement, signed the mandate as Secretary of State, having re-entered the Cabinet.

### Hope for Early Peace.

Washington, March 22.—In the downfall of Yuan Shi Kai's plans for making himself emperor hope is seen in official and diplomatic circles here for early restoration of peace in China and maintenance of the status quo in the Far East during the Eu- ropean War.

The abandonment of the proposed monarchy occasioned no great sur- prise although there had been no re- port of the action either to the State Department or to the Chinese Legation and recent official dispatches had not indicated that the step was im- minent. The province of Yunnan, rebelling against the overthrow of the Republic, for months has been maintaining its independence of the Central Government and report of discontent and revolt have come thick and fast from the southern dis- tricts. In addition to this state of affairs at home, Yuan has faced powerful opposition to his plans from the outside. Great Britain, Japan and Russia have exerted pressure to prevent any governmental change at this time.

Yuan had expected to proclaim the monarchy and ascend the throne before the beginning of the new year. When the time came, however, it was pronounced that the proclamation had been postponed indefinitely and unofficially it was stated that there would be no change in the govern- ment, until the war was over. The prospect of having China barred from the peace negotiations, in which the final disposition of Kiaochow will be determined, was probably an impor- tant factor in influencing the post- ponement.

Since Yuan dissolved the assembly, he virtually has been exercising the powers of a monarch but in its relations with the outside world China has not ceased to be a Republic. The China, and the Minister, Dr. Koo, acts in the name of the Repub- lic and the President.

The United States government has played no part in the diplomatic ex- changes at Peking regarding the pro- posed change. Great Britain, Japan and Russia sought American co-opera- tion in their opposition but the Washington administration declined to express either approval or disap- approval of Yuan's plans.

## ONE PASSENGER KILLED IN WRECK ON SOUTHERN

Thirteen Injured When Passenger Train Is Side-Swept by a Freight. Greensboro, N. C., March 19.—One passenger was killed and thir- teen injured, several seriously, when Southern railway passenger train 43, bound from Washington for Char- lotte, N. C., was side-swept by a freight train at Jamestown, N. C., ten miles south of Greensboro, early to-night. The injured were removed to Greensboro by a special train sent from here.

Mr. M. R. Hyatt, of High Point, N. C., was killed. Numerous other passengers re- ceived injuries of a less serious na- ture, besides the thirteen seriously hurt.

## VIGOROUS ATTACKS ARE RESUMED

Germans Make Strong Assaults and Gain Ground West of Verdun Salient.

### RUSSIAN ASSAULTS VICIOUS

Slav's Offensive on Northern End of Eastern Line Made With Extraor- dinary Violence—Tentons Report Repulse With Very Heavy Losses.

Infantry attacks northwest of Ver- dun, preceded by a vigorous bomb- ardment, have enabled the Germans to gain a foothold on the small hill of Harcourt, which lies just outside the village of Malancourt, and be- tween that town and the eastern edge of the Malancourt wood.

The entire sections of about two and a half miles from the Avocourt wood to Malancourt has been sub- jected to a violent artillery bombard- ment and several German infantry attacks but except in the immediate vicinity of Malancourt the Germans were held by the French fire and were unable to advance.

Northeast of Verdun, around Dou- aumont and Vaux, an intense artill- ery bombardment is still in pro- gress. The infantry forces, however, have remained inactive in this dis- trict.

From the west, in the forest of Argonne, the French are heavily shelling the Malancourt wood, which is in the hands of the Germans, and at various points in the forest have bombarded German organizations, especially at Four Daparis, La Fille Morte and Montfaucon.

The Russian offensive against the Germans in northwest Russia has in- creased in intensity and fighting is in progress day and night. The latest official statement from Russian gen- eral headquarters says that desperate infantry fighting is proceeding north of the town of Postavy, where the Germans launched violent counter- attacks in an attempt to dislodge the Russians from trenches which they had previously captured. Respecting this operation the Berlin communi- cation says at this point the Rus- sians delivered their heaviest attack and their loss was extraordinarily high, "even for the number of Rus- sians in action."

The Russians captured three lines of the German trenches on the south- western shore of Lake Narocz, where it is officially declared fighting is de- veloping in favor of the Russian forces. Here the Russians, despite "asphyxiating gases and a murderous fire," forced three lines of wire en- tanglements and made their gains in a series of fierce hand to hand en- counters.

The Russian war office also offi- cially announces the capture of Ispah- an, Persia, after an engagement. An unofficial report received by way of Rome and London says that the Austrians have abandoned Czerno- witz, capital of Bukowina.

Bad weather again has broken over the Austro-Italian front but it has not put a stop to the violent bombardments.

The Austrians have delivered sur- prise attacks with infantry against Italian positions at various points, but these, according to Rome, have everywhere been repulsed.

The famous "Galloper Lightship" at the mouth of the Thames has been sunk. According to a Lloyd's report, the Lightship was torpedoed.

## INFANTRY ATTACKS CEASED AT VERDUN

Paris, However, Announces Heavy Artillery Exchanges.

Paris, March 22.—No infantry at- tacks were made in the Verdun front last night, the war office announced this afternoon. The Germans bomb- arded Malancourt heavily and there were artillery exchanges of less in- tensity east of the Meuse.

### The statement follows:

"West of the Meuse the artillery duel was very lively in the region of Malancourt, Esnes and Hill 304. A particularly violent fire was directed against the Haucourt Hill.

"East of the Meuse the bombard- ment was intense in the region of Vaux and Damloup.

"There were no infantry actions. The night was calm in the remainder of the front."

## SENATE PASSES

### TILLMAN BILL

Provides For Armor-Plate Factory At Cost Not to Exceed \$11,000,000.

### GOES TO THE HOUSE

Bill Had Solid Democratic Support And Also Votes of Nine Progress- ive Republicans.

Washington, March 21.—The Till- man bill to provide for the erection or purchase by the government of an armor-plate factory at a cost not to exceed \$11,000,000 was passed by the Senate late to-day by a vote of 58 to 23. The House naval com- mittee has set aside to-morrow for con- sideration of the measure with a view of reporting it to the House promptly.

Democratic senators supported the bill solidly, regarding it as one of the important measures included in the National Preparedness program now being hastened to completion. Nine Progressive Republicans joined with the majority in voting for the bill. They were Senators Borah, Clapp, Cummins, Gronna, Kenyon, Norris, Poindexter, Sterling and Works.

Passage of the measure in the House is regarded as assured. Ad- ministration leaders are planning to bring it up soon after passage of the army re-organization and immigra- tion bills.

The bill, which has the approval of the Administration and Secretary Daniels, was bitterly opposed by sev- eral Republican Senators. At com- mittee hearings on the measure offi- cers of the Bethlehem and Midvale Steel Companies, two of the three concerns which furnish armor to the Government, appeared and the threat was made that their plants would have to be dismantled as soon as the Government entered upon the busi- ness, leaving no source of supply for the Navy's immediate needs. The op- position in the Senate was led by Senators Penrose, Oliver, Lippitt and Lodge.

Senator Swanson, in supporting the bill, declared that threats of private armor-plate makers to advance their price \$200 a ton if the measure pass- ed furnished a strong argument in its favor.

"If these companies are able to enforce this exaction now," he said, "they will be able in the future, unless this bill passes, to make any de- mands their greed and self-interest dictates. We are now in a situation where the more urgent our needs for armor-plate the greater the price ex- acted by private concerns."

Senator Swanson said former Ad- ministrations were responsible for the absence of competition among the three private companies.

From 1907 to 1913, the Bethlehem company received contracts for 23,588 tons, the Carnegie 23,641 and the Midvale 21,571 tons, he said.

"All competition has absolutely ceased," he added, "what is more remarkable, during all these years the Government did all it could to prevent competition between these concerns and to encourage them to enter a combination.

"While pretending to assail mono- poly in the courts and legislative halls, those in charge of the Gov- ernment were exerting their influ- ence to suppress competition. The loss the Government sustained on this account was astounding."

Senator Weeks, of Massachusetts, offered a substitute which would have authorized the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a five-year contract with the Bethlehem, Mid- vale and Carnegie companies to sup- ply all the armor-plate needed at a price six per cent. in excess of cost, maintenance, depreciation. The sub- stitute, after considerable debate, was rejected 60 to 25. Numerous other amendments were proposed and rejected.

Senators Oliver and Penrose in- sisted that the proposed action of the Government was confiscatory and that it would force the private plat- formers out of business at a time when they are most needed by the Government.

Senator Tillman declared the mea- sure was not designed to run the private manufacturers out of business and predicted that it would not.

## AUGUSTA BRAVELY FACES FUTURE

Loss of From Six to Ten Million Dollars in Great Fire There On Wednesday.

### RELIEF QUICKLY UNDER WAY

Business Men Begin Steps to Provide for Needy and Also to Look Out for Development to Replace Destroyed.

Augusta, Ga., March 23.—Augusta turned bravely about to-day and be- gan to plan for replacing the ravages of the fire which last night caused a loss estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000. There are many, how- ever, who are inclined to place the estimate at \$10,000,000. The total loss is a mere guess and nothing de- finite will be known until a final checking up of accounts. This is the second disaster to Augusta with- in the last half dozen years. It has just overcome the loss caused by the disastrous flood of several years ago and was fast developing—and now comes the great fire.

The business men to-day began marshaling their resources to meet the losses. Relief plans for the thousands of homeless people were given early consideration. The first event of the day was a meeting of city council when ample provision was made for the destitute. At noon hundreds of business men met at a mass meeting and it was determined that Augusta must rebuild at once on an even larger scale. The peo- ple are undaunted and have dis- played the very finest kind of spirit. There has been no shirking and every man is doing his duty. The losses will touch every class of society in this city. There is a kindred feel- ing among all.

### Much for Relief.

At a conference to-day a move- ment was set going to raise a fund of \$50,000 to prosecute relief work. It was announced late to-night that \$15,000 had already been subscribed. The ruling sentiment at a series of conferences was that Augusta will be able to care for the destitute, although gifts from other sources will not be rejected.

Acting upon the suggestion of bankers, Mayor J. R. Littleton de- clared a moratorium for to-day, be- cause many citizens were unable to meet their financial obligations. The moratorium may be extended for sev- eral days.

A careful survey shows that 30 blocks, covering 118 acres, were swept bare by the fire of yesterday. An unofficial count gives the num- ber of homes destroyed at 526. Over 130 business houses were burned. The total value of the houses was about \$2,250,000.

The three companies of state mil- itia were withdrawn from service to-day and the police have the situ- ation under control.

This afternoon several hundred workmen were put to work clearing up the debris about the burned build- ings. Dynamite was used to blow up several walls on Broad street. A large number of convicts will be brought in from the roads to assist in clearing up the streets.

### Many Visitors Here.

Thousands of visitors from many sections of Georgia and South Caro- lina poured into Augusta to-day to view the ruins and all hotels were crowded to-night. The near-beer sa- loons were closed to-day and all un- occupied buildings, including the old federal building, were thrown open to-night for the accommodation of the homeless families.

Only four firemen were injured during the fire. They were resting well at local hospitals to-night and all will recover, it was said.

Final figures would indicate that about 34,000 bales of cotton were destroyed, causing a loss of approx- imately \$1,800,000.

No figures are obtainable as to the amount of insurance carried on the properties destroyed. The insurance adjusters began to arrive in Augusta to-day. The adjustment will be made as rapidly as possible, it was said.

### Like Cyclone Belt.

Twenty blocks in the residence section of Augusta to-day presented the appearance of a windswept prai- rie and the bare walls of six busi- ness blocks bear silent testimony of recent years.

The fire which raged for more than (Continued on Page 8)